

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coin-type IC card reader/writer which performs processing of reading data from a coin-type IC card and writing data to the coin-type IC card while the coin-type IC card is rolling along and passing through an interior of a coin-type IC card guide path, comprising:

coin-type IC card distributing means provided in the coin-type IC card guide path, for performing the processing of reading data from the coin-type IC card and writing data to the coin-type IC card while temporarily stopping the rolling movement of the coin-type IC card, and, based on results of the processing, distributing the coin-type IC card to another coin-type IC card guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path.

2. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, wherein the coin-type IC card distributing means comprise:

a shaft turnably supported at one end of the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path;

a partition plate secured to a leading end surface of the shaft, for opening and closing an upstream end of said another coin-type IC card guide, in conjunction with turning of the shaft; and

a drive unit for driving the shaft.

3. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, wherein the coin-type IC card distributing means comprise:

a distributing lever which is provided at one end of the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path, formed with a gap into which the

coin-type IC card can be inserted, and supported so as to be turnable in a direction at right angles to a direction of advance of the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path;

a wall body that temporarily stops the coin-type IC card passing through the interior of the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path in a condition where the coin-type IC card is inserted through the gap of the distributing lever; and

drive means for driving the distributing lever.

4. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 3, wherein the distributing lever comprises a pair of guide plates being arranged so as to form the gap for inserting the coin-type IC card therebetween, with inner circumferential surfaces of the guide plates being formed in curved surface shapes.

5. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 4, further comprising a turning position detection sensor provided at a position adjacent to the distributing lever, for detecting turning position of the distributing lever.

6. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, wherein said another coin-type IC card guide paths comprises a coin-type IC card collection path for collecting the coin-type IC card and a coin-type IC card return path for returning the coin-type IC card.

7. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, further comprising coin diameter detection means provided at a card deposit slot formed at a starting end of the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide

path, for detecting whether or not diameter of a coin shaped object deposited in a card deposit slot has a specific size.

8. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 6, further comprising a positioning ring provided at a terminal end of the coin-type IC card return path, for positioning and supporting the coin shaped object guided through the IC card return path.

9. The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 7, further comprising a shutter provided in the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path, for opening and closing the first-mentioned coin-type IC card guide path based on detection signals of the coin diameter detection means.